

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

April 16, 2014

A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, April 16, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station, Middletown, Rhode Island. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman

Member Present: Cheryl Boergesson, Nicholas Coogan and Ralph Thomas

Members Absent: Austin Prendergast, Mike Richards and Ed Sisk

Ex-officio Members:

Present: Matt Sullivan, Planning Board Liaison;

Absent Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission

Town Officials: Dick Adams, Town Council Liaison (Absent due to a conflict with the meeting of the Boulevard/Tibbets Recreation Facility Steering Committee. Mike Richards was absent for the same reason.)

Others Present: None

Agenda

The minutes of the March 19 meeting were reviewed, but approval was deferred to the May 21 meeting.

Old Business:

- **Town Memorial Policy.** Still awaiting revised document from Maureen Mauer, Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator.
- **Properties Updates.**
 - o **Planning for Boulevard/Tibbets Recreation Facility.** The steering committee is meeting at the same time. It was reported that multiple use scenarios would be reviewed by the committee.
 - o **The Valley Trails.** No update available
 - o **Other Parks.** No updates.
- **Purgatory Walkway Update.** Movement on this project requires the Town Council to establish it as a priority. Dick Adams will raise the issue with Chris Semonelli, President of the Town Council.
- **BRAC Properties Update.** It was reported in today's Newport Daily News that the Narragansett Indian tribe had notified the Navy through the Bureau of Indian Affairs that it was again interested in all the property determined to be surplus by the BRAC Commission after having indicated in 2009 it was not interested in obtaining any of the properties. The article indicated that the Navy's Base Realignment and Closure Program Management Office East in Philadelphia could make a decision on the matter within 90 days.
- **Park Visits.** It was suggested that the committee tour each of the town parks to determine a park's condition, to recommend corrective actions if needed, and to meet with abutting residents as had been done in the past. Mason asked that the members e-mail him if interested in visiting a particular park(s).
- **Earth Day.** It had been decided that Earth Day would be observed

for the entire week, vice focused on one day as it had been in the past. The Middletown Library had a variety of events planned for families including an information fair on Friday, April 25, on gardening. Coordinators from 4-H and Clean Ocean Access will talk about their programs and distribute information. In addition to the library events, the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation and the Town of Middletown will host a household hazardous waste and an e-waste recycling Depot collection on April 20 and on April 19 Middletown will have a Bulk Waste Amnesty Day open to residents participating in the PAYT program.

- Workshop on Revisions to the Open Space and Recreation Acquisition Policy Document. Various suggestions for revisions were discussed. Ralph indicated he would prepare a new draft document for review to serve as a basis for further discussions at the May meeting.

New Business:

- Proposed Agenda Items for May Meeting.
 - o Town Memorial Policy Update
 - o Properties Updates
 - Tibbets/Boulevard Steering Committee
 - The Valley Trails
 - Other Parks.
 - o Purgatory Walkway Update
 - o Beach Facility Advisory Committee Report

- o Park Visits**
- o Earth Day Review**
- o Revisions to the Open Space and Recreation Policy Document**

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at 5:30 PM in the Community Room at the Middletown Police Station, 123 Valley Road, Middletown.

Ralph Thomas

Recording Secretary